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SCIENTIFIC SURVEYS AND MOTORIZED EQUIPMENT
TO AID FISH PRODUCTION IN CHINA

[Summary: The Chinese Government has begun a survey of fishing grounds by sending a group of experts to study the supply of mackerel in the Gulf of Chihli.]

Motorized fishing craft have for the first time been constructed in South China. Four such vessels completed their trial runs on 1 December 1953.

In all the coastal provinces fishing boats and nets are being repaired in preparation for fall fishing. Especially in Shantung Province, where the grain harvest was insufficient, emphasis is placed in increasing the food supply by catching more fish.]

SURVEY OF COASTAL FISHING GROUNDS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 16 Aug 53

The Central People's Government has this year begun an organized survey of the mackerel fishing grounds in the Gulf of Chihli to establish definite estimates of the quantity of fish present. Reasonable production and expansion of goals for the fishing industry may thus be established.

This survey is being made by a team of workers assembled by several organizations, including the Marine Products Laboratory of the Academia Sinica, the Peiping Biological Research Office, the University of Shantung, and the Shantung Marine Products Company. The team includes specialists in oceanography, ichthyography, and biology, and men with wide experience in fishing.

At present, the main task of the group is to make a broad survey of the mackerel fishing grounds in the Gulf of Chihli. The survey includes study of the physical and chemical properties of sea water, the marine elements drifting on the surface that furnish food for the fish, and the biological characteristics of the fish.

Since it is essential that those who make the survey of the fishing grounds use careful, scientific analyses, they are guarded by the People's Navy so that they may perform their work without interruption.

CONSTRUCTION OF MOTORIZED FISHING CRAFT -- Hong Kong, Ta Kung Pao, 4 Dec 53

On 1 December 1953, the Kwangtung Provincial Marine Products Company made successful trial runs of the first four motorized fishing vessels constructed in South China. Construction started in March and was completed in November.

The task of building was not an easy one. Only rough blueprints of a Japanese fishing craft were available and Liu Ling-wen, a first-class technician of the Marine Products Company displayed considerable ingenuity in arranging power installations. Material was difficult to secure. Lumber came from the interior of Kwangsi Province. For engines, machinery taken from old ships was rebuilt, miscellaneous parts manufactured and fitted as needed.

In these new boats machinery is needed not only for propulsion, but also for the mechanized equipment. Cold storage facilities are provided so that fish will reach the market fresh.

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The construction of these four vessels has established a good foundation for future shipbuilding and for the expansion of the fishing industry in South China.

FALL FISHING BEGINS -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 2 Sep 53

Fishing folk along the coasts of Kwangtung, Shantung, Fukien, Kiangsu, and Chekiang provinces have started fall fishing. In Kwangtung Province, fishermen are busily repairing boats and mending nets. Many tugboats and fishing smacks are congregating at the fishing grounds. The Kwangtung Provincial Marine Products Company has stocked 50 billion yuan's worth of essential articles needed for fishing. This is 80 percent more than was prepared by the same time in 1952.

Present facilities for the salting of fish in the Kwangtung Provincial Supply and Marketing Centres can take care of only 50 percent of the fish caught. Efforts are being made to remedy this situation. The Provincial Marine Products Company is investing 500 million yuan in the construction of a covered fish pond. Additional equipment costing 20 billion yuan is being secured.

In Shantung Province, the fall catch of jelly fish and sharks has been good. By 24 September, boats catching sharks had already caught 2,000 to 3,000 catties apiece. Because of the general poor harvest of grain for the first half of 1953 a province-wide conference on marine products was called at the beginning of September 1953 to consider ways of increasing the catch of fish to furnish needed food. It was urged that all available equipment be used in the fall fishing. Furthermore, labor was to be mobilized, including part-time labour, to collect rock oysters and agar-agar.

In the lake regions, people are being urged to catch all fish possible, consistent with preserving the supply, to complete their year's quota of 250,000 tons of fish.

In Fukien Province, fishermen are ready to go to sea for sharks, cuttle fish, and large herring.

In Kiangsu Province, the authorities are urging all fishermen to increase the catch of all types of fish.

In Chekiang Province, the fishermen of Chou-shan are repairing their boats and their fishing equipment. In Hsin Chia-men and P'u t'o Hsien more than 600 fishing smacks are being inspected and repaired. At the moment the government is loaning money for additional boats and equipment.

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